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The annual "trial of the coins", required by law to insure that the nation's money comes up to standards of fineness and weight, will be held Wednesday and Thursday at the United States Mint at Philadelphia, the Treasury announced today.

An Assay Commission of sixteen members appointed by the President and three ex-officio members designated by statute will perform the time-honored function, which has been carried out without lapse since 1792. An Assay Commission is required under the statutes to meet on the second Wednesday of February each year.

The sixteen members of this year's Commission appointed by the President are:

Charles Diebold, Jr., attorney, Buffalo, New York; Russell Hopkins, manufacturer, Philadelphia; Sam Shore, president, United Public Markets, Inc., Providence, Rhode Island; Mrs. Richard J. Reynolds, Jr., Winston-Salem, North Carolina; Miss Josephine Schain, New York City; S. van Berg, president, Rough Diamond Company, New York City; Frank Cosgrove, secretary and treasurer of Johnson and Johnson, New Brunswick, New Jersey; George Crowley, Chicago; John F. Fitzgerald, former mayor, Boston; Judge Henry D. Harlan, president of the board, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore; Ben Grey, Great Neck, New York; Mrs. Neil Finn, Weehawken, New Jersey; Dr. Henry W. Bearce, chief, division of weights and measures, National Bureau of Standards, Washington; Olin R. Higgins, fruit grower, Hurlock, Maryland; George C. Davis, chemist, Philadelphia; Arthur E. Story, banker, Norwich, Connecticut.

The statutory ex-officio members are:

William H. Kirkpatrick, federal district judge, Philadelphia; Preston Delano, Comptroller of the Currency, Washington; and Joseph Buford, assayer, United States Assay Office, New York City.

Dr. Bearce will take to Philadelphia the official United States Mint weights that have been calibrated by the Bureau of Standards.

Under Mint regulations, each member of the Commission receives a special medal. This year the bronze piece will have a likeness of Lincoln on the face, and a reproduction of the first coinage press, installed in 1793, on the reverse side.

Members serve without compensation, but are reimbursed for their expenses.

Mrs. Nellie Tayloe Ross, Director of the Mint, will convene the Annual Assay Commission, in this, the 150th year of the existence of the United States Mint. And should its members desire to look about a bit outside the carefully guarded "pyx" boxes of coins to be sampled, they will witness some unusual business, reflecting wartime changes in coinage.

Their testing will be confined to the silver coinage, but they will be able to see in production the new "Victory" five-cent piece, made of silver, copper, and manganese, and containing none of the nickel that identifies the coin in the popular mind. Production of this coin, its alloy changed to save critical war metals, was begun in October, and has now reached the volume of more than \$2,000,000 worth a month.

Also, the Commissioners will be able to witness in the preliminary stages of production a new wartime one-cent piece, of a composition different from any coin in our history. This coin, with the familiar Lincoln design, is being stamped out of zinc-coated, steel strips, to free copper for munitions.

This year's commission will inspect specimens of more than 263,000 silver coins that have been taken at random from the year's production. The number to be tested is the largest in history as war stimulated business has maintained demand for coins at unprecedented rates.

Coins from the Denver and San Francisco Mints have been sent to Philadelphia under seal, and will be tested, along with the output of the parent institution.

At all United States Mints one silver coin out of each 2,000 delivered from the coining room to the Superintendent must be preserved for test by the Commission.